

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Council of the Borough of Bridgnorth.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you my Annual Report for the year 1942.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health. L.E. Dickson, M.D., (part time).

Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector.

Mr. H.H. Thomas until 14th March 1942.

Mr. J. Wade, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., from 25th July 1942.

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1942.	5,830.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1942, according to the rate book.	1,832.
Rateable value.	£27,933.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£109. 5. 3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births.	115.	62.	53.	
Legitimate.	107.	58.	49.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate.	8.	4.	4.	estimated resident population. 19.7
Still Births.	7.	5.	2.	Rate per 1,000 total live and
Legitimate.	7.	5.	2.	still births. 57.2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
Deaths.	73.	31.	42.	Death Rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident population. 12.5
Deaths from Querceral Causes.	0.			

	Total.	M.	F.
Death of infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate.	6.	1.	5.
Illegitimate.	1.	-	1.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age.	
All infants per 1,000 live births.	60.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	56.0
Illegit. infants per 1,000 illegit. live births.	125.0

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer. (all ages).	8.	7.	1.
Deaths from Measles. (all ages).	1.		
Deaths from Whooping Cough. (all ages)	-		
Deaths from Diarrhoea. (under 2 years)	1.		

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority. - see above.
2. There have been no changes in the following:-

- (a) Laboratory Facilities.
- (b) Ambulance Facilities.
- (c) Nursing in the Home.
- (d) Treatment Centres.
- (e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Thomas resigned his appointment in March and there was no new appointment until 25th July, when Mr. Wade became Sanitary Inspector. In consequence it has not been possible to give a correct report of your Sanitary Inspector's work during the year.

Water.

The Kingleford bore hole supply has been adequate for the needs of the town and for an additional population, in parts of Bridgnorth Rural District, probably as great as that of the town itself. For this longer hours of pumping have been necessary than was anticipated when this source of supply was installed, and also the size of the storage tank is likely to be inadequate in the event of a sudden call for a large quantity of water. The life of the pumping plant will be shortened. The degree of hardness of this water has an adverse effect on boiler pipes and fittings. It is a perfectly safe water for drinking and domestic purposes and chlorination is only necessary in the event of accidental damage to the distributing system.

Sewerage & Drainage.

Reorganisation of the Northgate Sewage plant will it is hoped improve the effluent and with periodical flushing also improve the condition of the Santreyn Brook.

Swimming Bath.

This has proved useful to the community.

Mortuary.

An emergency mortuary is in course of construction in one of the chapels of the Cemetery.

Refuse Disposal.

House refuse is collected at regular intervals and disposed of at the Northgate tip.

Sec. D. HOUSING.

No new houses have been built and no houses have been demolished. There is considerable overcrowding owing to wartime population movements which it is difficult to relieve. The health of the community however does not appear to have been seriously affected by this.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

There were no samples of milk examined at the instance of this Local Authority.

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Scarlet Fever.

There were 28 cases of scarlet fever of a mild type scattered throughout the year. Of these 24 were removed to either Bridgnorth Isolation Hospital or Monkmoor.

Diphtheria.

There was one case notified. This was an adult who had not been immunised. At the beginning of the year the work of immunisation against diphtheria was taken over by the County Authority, who also undertook the publicity campaign. Free immunisation is now given to children of under school age and school children up to 15 years of age, by Medical Officers of the County, either at schools or the Welfare Centre. Where parents or guardians of children of under school age are unable to take the children to either a school or the Welfare Centre, application may be made to the Medical Officer of the Local Authority to have the treatment carried out by a local practitioner.

Summary up to Dec. 31st. 1942.

Under 5 years. Between 5 & 15. Total.

Number of children who completed a full course in the Authority's area between 1.1.42 & 31.12.42	57.	82.	139.
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Approximate estimated child population at 31.12.42.	382.	917.	
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Percentage of the child population considered immunised at 31.12.42.	30.	75.	
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Scabies.

This disease was less prevalent than in the preceding year but was considerably in excess of pre-war years.

Isolation Hospital.

This hospital remained closed until Sept. 1st, when Miss Kyle was appointed Matron. Previously to her appointment, cases of infectious diseases needing isolation were sent to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	28.	24.	-
Diphtheria.	1.	1.	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-
Erythral Pyrexia.	1.	1.	-
Pneumonia.	2.	1.	2.
Measles.	7.	-	1.
Whooping Cough.	1.	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1.	1.	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2.	2.	-

Age Incidence of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Age Period.									
	Under 1.	1. 5.	5. 15.	15. 25.	25. 35.	35. 45.	45. 55.	55. 65.	& Upwards.	
Scarlet Fever.	-	5.	20.	1.	2.	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	1.	5.	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-
Puerperal Pyrex.	-	-	-	1.	-	5.	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal.F.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	2.	3.	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non.-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non.-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	1.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.
25.	2.	-	1.	-	-	1.	-	-
35.	1.	1.	-	-	1.	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	1.	-	1.	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
65 & Upwards.	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
Total.	6.	1.	1.	2.	3.	2.	-	2.

CANCER.

Deaths. Male. 7. Female. 1. Total. 8.

Age Period.

45-55. 1.
 55-65. 1.
 65-75. 5.
 75-85. 1.

Your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

12th May, 1944.